

Wycombe go second



Terry Glynn fires home Wycombe's first goal against Sutton from just outside the penalty area.

TOLL EARNS THE CHEERS THIS TIME!

GARY Toll turned the jeers into cheers when scoring Wycombe's third and clinching goal in a marvellous victory that enabled them to leapfrog over Sutton United into second place in the Berger Isthmian League title race.

Toll, who has been barracked by the fans in recent weeks following a series of undistinguished displays, became an unlikely hero at Loakes Park on Saturday when ending Sutton's revival hopes with his opportunist score.

The goal was simple enough — a close range shot from a narrow angle following a super run by Steve Long on the left — but its implications could be significant.

Toll, who admitted afterwards that the crowd's jeering had worried him, commented, "I'm very relieved, it's about time I scored."

Determination

But Toll was just one of eleven Wycombe heroes in one of their best performances of the season.

Rarely have I seen a Wanderers side more committed to victory. They knew this was a vital game to win and their determination allied to their undoubted skill left fellow contenders Sutton shattered and demoralised.

Mike Keen, who received a gallon of whisky as manager of the month for November before the match, clearly had his side tuned to a fever pitch and they never allowed the talented Sutton team to settle.

After their usual slow start, Wycombe received just the boost they needed after 15 minutes with a goal fashioned and scored by their two Londoners.

George Borg robbed full-back Steve Rogers with a strong challenge and then made progress down the left before crossing into the middle.

The Sutton defence, clearly surprised by this sudden attack, gave Terry Glynn

too much time and space and the talented striker fired his shot from the edge of the penalty area just inside the left post. It was a clinically executed goal.

Even faster

The Blues dominated the first half to such an extent that Sutton did not seriously test Gary Lester. Most of the action was in the other goal-mouth. Steve Hardwick went close with a neat back-header and Toll saw an effort cleared off the line.

The big question at the start of the second half, was whether Wycombe could keep up the pace. The answer soon came through as a loud 'yes'. Indeed they were going even faster, and remarkably retaining possession.

Long, Toll and Mick Hollifield all went desperately close to adding a second, before it eventually came, right on the hour.

Jimmy Jacobs found the well-marked Long just outside the penalty area. There seemed no way through to goal, but Long turned sharply and rounded two defenders to give himself a clear shooting chance. He made no mistake from 15 yards.

Barring errors Wycombe were now surely home and dry. But Sutton have not got to where they are now without acquiring some character, and they hit back seven minutes later.

Ray Sunnucks, a talented teenage winger, broke down the right and sent a long cross over to the far post. Graham Dennis's header was half saved by Lester, but Ian Parsons knocked in the rebound from close range.

Stuffing

Wycombe were clearly worried and they lost their grip a little. But then Toll scored that vital third and I have rarely seen a Wycombe

team so delighted at scoring a goal. Toll was virtually swamped by his colleagues.

That knocked the stuffing out of Sutton, although they did produce one more rapier thrust in the closing minutes. Mick Joyce broke down the middle only to see his effort saved first by Lester and then Paul Birdseye who had raced back to save a shot on the line.

It was that sort of commitment that earned Wanderers their seventh home league win in a row and extended their unbeaten league sequence at Loakes Park to 15 matches.

WYCOMBE: G. Lester; P. Birdseye, G. Borg, R. Davies, R. Dell, S. Long, J. Jacobs, T. Glynn, G. Toll, M. Hollifield. Sub K. Wilson (not used).

SUTTON: D. Collyer; S. Rogers, R. Green, J. Rains, T. Rains, M. Golley, R. Sunnucks, L. Pritchard, M. Joyce, I. Parsons (sub K. Waldon 75 mins), G. Dennis.

Referee: R. Smith (Oxford).

Half-time: 1-0. **Scorers:** Wycombe — Glynn (15 mins), Long (60), Toll (75); Sutton — Parsons (67).

Attendance: 1,108.